

want to point out that Mr. Cummings accomplished all of these records before he turned 21.

I am immensely proud, as I know everyone in the Lowcountry is, of Mr. Cummings for all of the hard work and determination and dedication he has given to his sport and to his country.

I cannot wait to watch him win the gold medal for the United States in the Olympic Games in Tokyo. His journey is truly an inspiration to weightlifters, to athletes of all types, and to all Americans. I cannot be more proud.

God bless Mr. Cummings, the great State of South Carolina, and the United States of America.

REPEAL THE 2002 IRAQ AUMF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to end the war in Iraq. That is right, it is still going on. The 2002 AUMF that authorized military force in the Iraq war is still active, but today we will be voting on it, and it is long past due for us to vote on it. The original text of the 2002 AUMF was disturbingly broad and authorizes the United States military to enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions.

We have wasted \$750 million on the world's largest embassy in Iraq. When we get out of Iraq, it is time to put a for sale sign on that embassy. We may get only pennies on the dollar for that embassy, but that is better than sacrificing lives. We don't want another Libya; we don't want another Benghazi to happen in Iraq. It is time to scale down the embassy, put what is there for sale, and bring our troops and our diplomats home.

Saddam Hussein's regime was defeated in 2003. That is 18 years ago. Obama declared the Iraq war ended in 2011. But the AUMF was never repealed, and it gives a blank check to any current or subsequent administration to keep American soldiers in Iraq indefinitely and puts us at risk of getting into another war if things escalate.

By 2013, a majority of Americans believed that the Iraq war was a mistake. Approximately 4,586 U.S. soldiers have died in Iraq, lost their lives since the beginning of the war, and 32,000 have been seriously wounded or injured in Iraq since the start of the war.

Although it is hard to know the estimated number of civilian casualties during this period of time in Iraq, it is somewhere between 800,000 and 1.3 million civilians. Think about that. A million civilians have died in this conflict.

It is time for us to leave. We owe it to our soldiers. They signed up to protect our country. They didn't sign up to be the world's policemen.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this repeal of the 2002 Iraq AUMF today.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARY DUFFY SHEAFFER BURTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SMUCKER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton, who passed away earlier this year. I certainly appreciated Mary's friendship and support over the last several decades. She was an incredible lady.

Mary made an indelible mark through her works and service to the Lancaster County community. She was a lifelong entrepreneur, a pioneer of the manufacturing industry in Lancaster, starting her first business in her garage, HDJ Company, in 1960, which became a leader in the design and manufacture of precision machining parts and would later become specialized medical devices and implants.

Her businesses would employ many individuals over the years, building lasting relationships with many, positively impacting their lives.

Mary received the Golden Micrometer Award from the Precision Machined Products Association of America, which is the highest honor of the industry in 2008 and was a recognition of her outstanding efforts and achievement.

She was just as devoted to improving her community, generously supporting, with her time and talents, many organizations which built Lancaster's thriving arts community, historical organizations, and organizations supporting women and children.

Mary is survived by her three children, who we express our sincerest condolences to, Duffy, Mary, and Edward, and by her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

We are sad at Mary's passing, but she brought happiness to the lives of so many, and for that we give thanks.

TAXING THE MIDDLE CLASS

Mr. SMUCKER. Madam Speaker, President Biden is raising taxes on the middle class. Make no mistake about it. Middle-class Americans are feeling the squeeze of inflation as well—at the gas pump, at the grocery store, at the hardware store, and everywhere in between—as a result of the President's reckless Big Government spending plans.

This irresponsible \$6 trillion budget doubles down on taxing the middle class, breaking his pledge to only tax the wealthy. And we know he wants to tax the middle class because the President's budget would let the working- and middle-class tax hikes from the Tax Cut and Jobs Act expire.

□ 1045

By the way, from 2017 to 2019, the TCJA raised the median household income by over \$5,000. This was a real positive impact for families across the district that I represent, for families across the country. And it also led to the lowest poverty rate in history, lift-

ing more people out of poverty than ever before and historically slow unemployment.

But, apparently, Biden wants to throw away those policies that built the strongest economy that we have seen in generations and, instead, will force greater dependence on the Federal Government.

Even with all of the radical socialist policies included in the President's budget, their own projections indicate the worst economic growth of any decade since the Great Depression, at the cost of more than \$17 trillion added to the national debt.

Madam Speaker, the President says he wants to build back better, but I fear that he will end up building back bankrupt.

America can simply not afford his middle-class tax hikes and socialist spending wish list.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, we pause amidst the business and the busyness of this week and call on You. We are impatient to hear Your word. Hurry to our assistance.

May our prayers be like incense before You.

May the effort of our hands be as a sacrifice to You.

Set a guard over our mouths, O Lord. Watch over the words that come from our lips. Do not let the thoughts that emerge into speech be shaped with evil intent.

And do not allow our hearts to be inclined to compete in wrongdoing with those who wrong us.

But may our eyes be ever on You, for in You do we find shelter. And to You we entrust our whole selves.

We pray this in the strength of Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEGUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 16, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on June 16, 2021, at 10:58 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 475.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ACT ON UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, last Saturday, we remembered the murder of 49 people at the Pulse massacre 5 years ago. Tomorrow, we will mourn 6 years since nine people were killed in their place of worship at Mother Emanuel AME Church.

It sits with me every single day that in this country we lose friends and family to the tragic and avoidable scourge of gun violence.

As of this weekend, we have reached 272 mass shootings in this country. It is madness. These acts of violence, sometimes motivated by hate, continue.

Yet, we—and the Senate in particular—have failed to enact common-sense gun violence prevention legislation that would stem bloodshed and end this loss. I implore the Senate to hear the cries of those in their communities, our constituents, and pass the two universal background check bills that the House sent over to the Senate in March.

Families should no longer have to bury their loved ones when we have the ability and the responsibility to close deadly loopholes in our system.

Gun ownership is an important part of our American culture and our Con-

stitution, and now is our chance to come together in a way that preserves this part of our heritage while protecting our constituents and saving lives.

HONORING ROBYN RICHARDSON

(Mr. WOMACK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a milestone in the life of one of Russellville, Arkansas' most admired citizens, Robyn Richardson.

He is a beloved fixture in the community and one of the River Valley's biggest sports fans. I first got to know Richardson when playing football for my alma mater, Russellville High School, and, later, Arkansas Tech University. Robyn never missed a game.

I will always remember him in the end zone of football games, ready to catch field goals and extra points, then promptly returning the football to the game officials. He was as much a part of the game as the players on the field.

But, Mr. Speaker, the milestone I speak of is the fact that he is now the longest-serving employee of Pope County, Arkansas, celebrating his 50th anniversary of employment.

I had the pleasure of joining the city and county last week in a tribute to Robyn's service. Not surprisingly, he told me he feels great and has no intention of retiring anytime soon.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of Robyn Richardson, and I want the Nation to hear of his amazing record of service.

Congratulations to my friend.

CONGRESS SHOULD MAKE DECISIONS TO DECLARE WAR

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, the most solemn decision a country can make is to send its sons and daughters to war. The most solemn responsibility Congress has is to make that decision. Yet, Congress has delegated that authority too often and too long to the executive.

It resulted from an AUMF vote, Authorization for Use of Military Force, for a lie-based war in Iraq, resulting in the loss of life of over 4,500 of our fellow citizens, 200,000 Iraqis killed, and destruction and instability in the Middle East.

That authorization will be repealed by a vote of Congress, and I will vote to repeal that authorization and restore to the Congress its responsibility to make that solemn decision about whether and when we send our sons and daughters to defend us abroad.

IN SUPPORT OF THE HELP WANTED ACT

(Mr. JACOBS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, the Help Wanted Act, which would reinstate work search requirements for unemployment benefits and end disincentives to work.

We have now gotten two job reports that fell short of projections. Meanwhile, it was reported that there were a record 9.3 million job openings in the United States.

In my home of western New York, there are reports that restaurants are turning customers away when they need them most because they are short-staffed.

In February, the Congressional Budget Office published a report stating our economy would return to pre-pandemic strength without additional government spending. Yet, the President and Democrats forced through a highly partisan and unrelated \$2 trillion package.

The result is it has now become more lucrative to stay at home than to seek employment, a detriment to our overall economic recovery.

Vaccines are rolling out; the CDC has updated their guidance; and positivity rates are dropping. It is time to get back to work.

CONGRATULATING BOULDER COUNTY, COLORADO, ON JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

(Mr. NEGUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Boulder County on their inaugural Juneteenth celebration this year.

In 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing millions of enslaved people. Two years later, on June 19, 1865, the impact of this proclamation reached Texas, where the last enslaved people were liberated when Union soldiers marched into Galveston to deliver the news.

Over 150 years have since passed, and while there is still much work to be done in the fight for racial justice and equality, we celebrate the resilience of Black Americans and the long struggle for freedom and justice that they have led.

I am incredibly proud that Boulder County is holding an inaugural Juneteenth event. By exposing more people to the importance of this day and educating our community, we have the power to make a difference in Boulder County.

Thank you to everyone for putting the work in to organize this event, and I look forward to celebrating the event with you.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF BRYCEN GRAY

(Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the